

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations  
and is not a part of the Official Record

## **BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,  
please do not report the images to the  
Image Problem Mailbox.**

Appl. No. 09/963,664  
Amdt. Dated 12/01/2003  
Reply to Office action of 08/29/2003

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): An open motor vehicle, comprising:  
a passenger cell including at least one vehicle seat having a backrest and associated head restraint, an air outflow opening of an air-distributing device being provided on ~~at least one~~ of an upper narrow side and a lateral outer narrow side of the backrest in order to reduce undesirable draughts for a vehicle occupant, wherein the air-distributing device is integrated in the backrest and is supported directly by the latter.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented): The open motor vehicle according to Claim 1, wherein a fan connected upstream of the air-distributing device is integrated in the backrest.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented): The open motor vehicle according to Claim 1, wherein the air-distributing device is assigned at least one heating element for heating an air flow.

Appl. No. 09/963,664  
Amdt. Dated 12/01/2003  
Reply to Office action of 08/29/2003

**Claim 4. (Canceled)**

**Claim 5. (Previously Presented):** The open motor vehicle according to  
Claim 1, wherein the air outflow opening is orientated in such a manner that air  
flow flows out essentially in a transverse direction of the vehicle.

**Claim 6. (Previously Presented):** The open motor vehicle according to  
Claim 1, wherein the vehicle seat has, at least in an upper region of the backrest,  
a covering which is provided with air outflow openings, is made of perforated  
textile or plastic material or perforated leather and through which airflows  
provided by the air-distributing device emerge.

**Claim 7. (Previously Presented):** The open motor vehicle according to  
Claim 1, wherein a wind shield is integrated in the backrest of the vehicle seat  
and is supported directly by the latter.

**Claim 8. (Previously Presented):** The open motor vehicle according to  
Claim 7, wherein the wind shield can be extended and lowered, the lifting and  
lowering movement thereof being coupled in terms of movement to that of the  
head restraint.

Appl. No. 09/963,664  
Amdt. Dated 12/01/2003  
Reply to Office action of 08/29/2003

**Claim 9. (Previously Presented):** The open motor vehicle according to Claim 1, wherein a plurality of rows of seats having two vehicle seats each is arranged in the passenger cell of the motor vehicle, a separate air-distributing device being integrated into respective backrests of each seat in each row.

**Claim 10. (Currently Amended):** A vehicle seat assembly comprising:  
a backrest, and  
an air-distributing device supported in the backrest and having an air outflow opening on ~~at least one of~~ an upper narrow side and a lateral outer narrow side of the backrest for reducing undesirable air draughts for a vehicle seat occupant during use of the vehicle seat assembly in an open motor vehicle.

**Claim 11. (Original):** A vehicle seat assembly according to Claim 10, wherein a fan connected upstream of the air-distributing device is integrated in the backrest.

**Claim 12. (Previously Presented):** A vehicle seat assembly according to Claim 10, wherein the air-distributing device is assigned at least one heating element for heating an air flow.

**Claim 13-15. (Canceled)**

Appl. No. 09/963,664  
Amdt. Dated 12/01/2003  
Reply to Office action of 08/29/2003

**Claim 16. (Previously Presented):** A vehicle seat assembly according to Claim 10, wherein the air-distributing device includes an opening in a front side of the backrest.

**Claim 17. (Previously Presented):** A vehicle seat assembly according to Claim 10, wherein the backrest has a covering in its upper region which is air permeable to form said outflow opening.

**Claim 18. (Original):** A vehicle seat assembly according to Claim 17, wherein said covering is made of perforated leather.

**Claim 19. (Previously Presented):** A vehicle seat assembly according to Claim 17, wherein said covering is made of perforated plastic.

**Claim 20. (Previously Presented):** A vehicle seat assembly according to Claim 17, wherein said covering is made of textile fabric.

**Claim 21. (Previously Presented):** A vehicle seat assembly according to Claim 10, further comprising:

a headrest disposed above the backrest, and

Appl. No. 09/963,664  
Amdt. Dated 12/01/2003  
Reply to Office action of 08/29/2003

a wind shield disposed behind the headrest and an upper part of the backrest.

**Claim 22. (Original): A vehicle seat assembly according to Claim 21, wherein said headrest is supported for adjusting movement at the backrest.**

**Claim 23. (Original): A vehicle seat assembly according to Claim 21, wherein the wind shield is supported at the backrest.**

**Claim 24. (Original): A vehicle seat assembly according to Claim 21, wherein said wind shield is of a size sufficient to protrude laterally of portions of both the headrest and the backrest.**

**Claim 25. (Currently Amended): A vehicle seat assembly according to Claim 21, wherein the wind shield can be extended and lowered, the lifting and lowering movement thereof being coupled in terms of movement to that of the head restraint headrest.**

**Claim 26. (Currently Amended): A vehicle assembly with at least one vehicle seat assembly in a passenger cell, each vehicle seat assembly comprising:**  
**a backrest, and**

Appl. No. 09/963,664  
Amdt. Dated 12/01/2003  
Reply to Office action of 08/29/2003

an air-distributing device supported in the backrest and having an air outflow opening on at least one of an upper narrow side and a lateral outer narrow side of the backrest for reducing undesirable air draughts for a vehicle seat occupant during use of the vehicle seat assembly in an open motor vehicle.

**Claim 27. (Original):** A vehicle assembly according to Claim 26, wherein a fan connected upstream of the air-distributing device is integrated in the backrest.

**Claim 28. (Previously Presented):** A vehicle assembly according to Claim 26, wherein the air-distributing device is assigned at least one heating element for heating an air flow.

**Claim 29. (Original):** A vehicle assembly according to Claim 26, each vehicle seat assembly further comprising:

    a headrest disposed above the backrest, and  
    a wind shield disposed behind the headrest and an upper part of the backrest.

Appl. No. 09/963,664  
Amtd. Dated 12/01/2003  
Reply to Office action of 08/29/2003

Claim 30. (Original): A vehicle assembly according to Claim 26, comprising a plurality of said vehicle seat assemblies disposed side by side in a row.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented): A vehicle assembly according to Claim 26, comprising a plurality of said seat assemblies, with at least two of said seat assemblies per row of seat assemblies and a plurality of rows of seat assemblies disposed behind one another.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented): A vehicle assembly according to Claim 29, comprising a plurality of said seat assemblies, with at least two of said seat assemblies per row of seat assemblies and a plurality of rows of seat assemblies disposed behind one another.

Claim 33. (Canceled)

Claim 34. (Previously Presented): An open motor vehicle, comprising: a passenger cell including at least one vehicle seat having a backrest and associated head restraint, air outflow openings of an air-distributing device being provided level with an upper region of the backrest in order to reduce

Appl. No. 09/963,664  
Amtd. Dated 12/01/2003  
Reply to Office action of 08/29/2003

undesirable draughts for a vehicle occupant, wherein the air-distributing device is integrated in the backrest and is supported directly by the latter;

wherein a plurality of rows of seats having two vehicle seats each is arranged in the passenger cell of the motor vehicle, a separate air-distributing device being integrated into respective backrests of each seat in each row.

**Claim 35. (Previously Presented):** A vehicle assembly with at least one vehicle seat assembly in a passenger cell, each vehicle seat assembly comprising:

a backrest, and  
an air-distributing device supported in the backrest and having air outflow openings in an upper region of the backrest for reducing undesirable air draughts for a vehicle seat occupant during use of the vehicle seat assembly in an open motor vehicle;

and further comprising a plurality of said seat assemblies, with at least two of said seat assemblies per row of seat assemblies and a plurality of rows of seat assemblies disposed behind one another.